

“Peacemaking for Families – A Biblical Guide to Managing Conflict in Your Home.”

Author: Ken Sande with Tom Raabe

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Do you find yourself longing for your home to be a place of refuge and peace from the constant pressures and conflict in the world only to recognise that the reality is very different? Maybe you struggle with the clash of personal desires in your marriage and the inevitable sibling rivalry that calls for your intervention. Well take heart, you are not alone! Sande & Raabe demonstrate that conflict in families is normal and inevitable, a result of our fallen sinful nature. These authors, however, offer us hope and practical help as they present God’s principles for achieving peaceful resolutions to conflict.

Part one looks at some common responses to conflict and then uncovers the often idolatrous desires that contribute to conflict. Part two walks us through four vital aspects of peacemaking – the seven A’s of confession, knowing when and how to confront, the four promises of forgiveness and co-operative versus competitive negotiation. The practical examples in this section relate to conflict in marriage with an excellent section on listening skills.

Part three applies the principles already laid out by demonstrating how we can teach these principles to our children with life story examples of how to resolve conflict between an adult and a child. Part four teaches us how to recognise the warning signs of a troubled marriage and encourages to seek help from the counsel of others when necessary.

Overall, this is an excellent practical resource for dealing with conflict. The Peacemaker’s checklist in the Appendix is a good quick reference guide that you can refer to often and there is a very helpful Appendix on “The Cross and Criticism.” This book makes a great contribution to showing us the way forward in the midst of the great difficulties associated with conflict. The same principles can be applied in the wider body of Christ, the Church family.

Reviewed by Anne Camp